

The City of Marion, South Carolina

SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



Volume 4, Issue 13

June 2014



Employees said goodbye to Jeneral Harps on Friday, May 9th at the City's quarterly Employees Fellowship Luncheon.

Jeneral has been working in the Street Department since November 2004. He became licensed to drive commercial vehicles in May 2012 and is responsible for operating the City's vacuum truck to service our storm drainage system. According to his supervisor, Street Superintendent Ronnie Sanders, Jeneral is "a dedicated young man with a lot of enthusiasm who takes great pride in his work." There is no task within the department that is too large or too small for Jeneral. In addition to the cleaning out storm drains, Jeneral's duties include beautification projects such as planting trees and preparing flower beds, mowing grass in the summer, and decorating the City for the Christmas season. Jeneral also serves the city as a volunteer firefighter and is a member of the Marion Rescue Squad.

Jeneral has been name Employee of the Month several times and also Employee of the Year in 2011.

Good luck on your new endeavor the City of Marion will miss you!!



Congratulations
to all graduates.

That diploma you hold in your hands today is really just your learner's permit for the rest of the drive through life. Remember, you don't have to be smarter than the next person, all you have to do is be willing to work harder than the next person.

Mayor Davis, Marion City Council, City Administrator Alan Ammons.



9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Every Saturday in the month of June, HMRA Farmers' Market at the Market Place on Main Street will be open.

June 3rd - Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at First Citizens Bank, 214 N. Main St.

June 2nd - 6th - Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Wildlife Action Adventure Camp. **Session 1:** SC Pioneer Day Camp. Co-Ed, ages 6-11. Deadline for application, 5/28/2014. Fee \$125.

June 10th - Tuesday

6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

June 5th - Thursday

10:00 a.m. Grice's Pool Opening

June 16th - 20th - Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Wildlife Action Adventure Camp. **Session 2:** SC Pioneer Day Camp. Co-Ed, ages 6-11. Deadline for application, 6/18/2014. Fee \$125.

June 23rd- 27th - Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Wildlife Action Adventure Camp. **Session 3:** North Carolina Pioneer Day Camp. Co-Ed, ages 6-11. Deadline for application, 6/18/2014. Fee \$125.

June 24th - Tuesday

3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Marion County Chalk Walk. Marion Hike-Bike Trail. Bobby Gerald Parkway. To register now call: 289-5054 /423-9918 or email: artcounciljj@gmail.com or hmra@theswampfox.com.



The City of Marion will host a **FREE** Community Summer Camp beginning June 9th for children who reside in the City of Marion. The Camp will be both academic and fun oriented, with numerous activities for the kids. We are pleased to announce the Camp Director will be Mr. Mike Tiesing.

The Camp will run through August 15th. Camp hours are Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Parents are encouraged to pick up applications from, fill out and return as quickly as possible to, any of the following:

Pam Jones, City Clerk - City Hall 423-5961

Vickie Nichols, City Publisher - City Hall 423-5961

Elizabeth Sanders, Administrative Assistant - City Hall 423-5961

Cheryl Askins, Administrative Assistant - Watsonia Recreation Center 423-5410

Robbie Johnson, Administrative Assistant - Grice's Recreation Center 423-6447

Flyers are available to give an overview of the Summer Program. We are looking forward to an exciting summer! Hope to see your kids there!



Mayor Bobby L. Davis



City's Grass Ordinances

According to the City's CODE OF ORDINANCES : **Section 6-1009.1 through Section 6-1009.6**, grass, weeds, or other overgrown vegetation higher than one foot on average is declared to be a nuisance. The ordinance also states that any property owner or occupant of the property that allows the property to serve as a breeding place for trash and litter or as a fire hazard is to be declared a nuisance. Any individual who fails to resolve the issue within 10 days of notice of non-compliance will be guilty of a misdemeanor. The City may remove weeds, overgrown vegetation either by the use of a city crew or designated contractor and the cost will become a lien upon the property and collected in the same manner as municipal taxes. The cost of such action by the city is as follows: \$100 per lot, ½ acre or less; \$175 per lot, ½ acre to 2 acres; \$250 per lot, 2 acres to 5 acres; \$250 per lot, 5 acres and over, plus \$100 per hour; or any contractor costs incurred by the city to correct the nuisance lot in addition to the cost of mailings. If an owner or occupant of a property believes they are unable to pay to have the grass, weeds, or overgrown vegetation removed, he or she may ask the City of Marion for assistance. A voucher program, administered by a seven-member committee, is available for reviewing requests for assistance by low-income persons. For information about the voucher program, contact City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

In an effort to improve on response time for emergency calls to 911, the Fire Department along with EMS is asking all residents of the City of Marion, SC to please post the correct house number outside of your residence. This is very important for you and your family members as well as the personnel responding to the calls.

Marion County Chalk Walk

The Arts Council of Marion County and Historic Marion Revitalization Association Present Marion County Chalk Walk. This is a FREE EVENT, Tuesday, June 24, 2014. Marion Hike-Bike Trail at 3:00 P.M. Bobby Gerald Parkway, Marion SC. To register now call: 289-5054 / 423-9918 or email: artcounciljj@gmail.com or hmra@theswampfox.com.

The Marion Lions Club wishes to announce that our yearly community calendar will not be available this year in July. We anticipate that it will be available in January for the regular calendar year. Any changes should still be submitted to Charlotte Hollandsworth at 843-275-9959. This is our main fundraiser to help pay for eye exams, eyeglasses and hearing aids for the less fortunate.

Thank you, Charlotte Hollandsworth, Secretary

The Historic Marion Revitalization Association membership drive is on! We encourage you to become a member for 2014-2015. Funds that are raised through our membership campaign **support the purpose and goals to:** (1) *grow Marion's business and retail base*, (2) *cultivate tourism to revitalize downtown*, (3) *support overall city improvement initiatives* and (4) *create, manage and support promotional events*.

It is the support from members like you that will allow us to continue making our community a better place for all residents and to host such activities as:

- Gen. Francis Marion Celebrations
- HMRA's Prelude to Christmas
- Main Street Scarecrow Contest
- Main Street Farmer's Market Place Events
- Spring Frogmore Fest
- Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off
- Two Cornhole Tournaments (Spring and Fall)
- October Fest

These are some of the activities and events your membership will support as well as lending support to our downtown merchants through seasonal promotions and upcoming training opportunities. We urge you to participate in our events, shop local, as well as volunteer to help with our ongoing projects. We are always looking for new ideas on how we can better serve our community. Let us hear from you and thank you for your support!!!

Check your mail for the invitation to join HMRA or visit our website for all the details on becoming a member at www.theswampfox.com.

CITY OF MARION PUBLIC NOTICE

2014-2015 BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE

Section 1 of the Business and Professional License Ordinance for the City of Marion, South Carolina requires every person engaged in any calling, business, occupation or profession within the limits of the City of Marion to renew the annual Business License fee and obtain a license.

The City of Marion Business License Renewal Applications are being mailed on May 23, 2014. Current Business Licenses expire on June 30, 2014. To obtain a 2014-2015 Business License, a completed renewal application and/or remittance must be received in the City of Marion Business License Department by July 31, 2014 to avoid a penalty. Penalties for late payment will be assessed on August 1, 2014, and will increase each month thereafter.

FAILURE TO RECEIVE A RENEWAL NOTICE DOES NOT RELIEVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LICENSEE FROM OBTAINING A BUSINESS LICENSE. If you have any questions please contact Pam Jones in the Business License Department at 843-423-5961.

Newly Renovated Pool

The City of Marion newly renovated swimming pool at Grice's Recreation Center opening day will be June 5th at 10:00 a.m.

MARION SENIOR COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: JUNE 24, 2014 (THURS)
 SCHEDULE: 4TH Thursday of each month unless otherwise posted.
 TIME: 3:00 PM
 PLACE: Firehouse Meeting Room.
 WHO: Marion Seniors 62 years and Older.
 GOAL: Address senior concerns, build a better vision for Marion and decide what our experience and wisdom can do to create a more unified community.

Downtown property owners, let HMRA help you in filling your empty buildings. We'll be glad to retain information about your properties to share with potential buyers and renters. Find the information form on the HMRA website at www.theswampfox.com under Establishments/Available Properties.

Shop and Dine Local...to keep YOUR town viable!!!

Mark your calendar for the Annual Marion County Independence Day Celebration . Friday, July 4, 2014. 100 W. Buck St. Mullins SC. For more details, contact, Ogleretta White—423-8208 ext. 120 or email: owhite@mariosc.gov

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis, (843) 423-5961, Ext. 21
Alan Ammons, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
Pam Jones, City Clerk, Ext. 10
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
Elizabeth Sanders, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
Elizabeth Ficik, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
Vickie J. Nichols, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
Ann Jackson, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
Jim Gray, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
Trey Cooper, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
Heather Evans, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
Almeta Mullins, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

City New Flag

All the ballots for the City of Marion new flag selection have been received and tallied. We have a clear winner and on May 13th at the City Council unanimously agreed to accept that selection as the new city flag. That flag will be the white flag with The Swamp Fox City logo on.

June 1-7 is National Garden Week.



Play Day

Don't forget to mark your calendar as we make preparations for fun at Withlacoochee Park on September 20th, for our Annual Play Day.

Want to Share!!!

Questions or to share information for the Swamp Fox Scene, please email vnichols@marionsc.gov.

Alzheimer's Association Support Meetings

The Alzheimer's Association hosts a support group for family caregivers. The support group meetings are held every second Saturday of the month. The next meeting will be held at Carolinas Hospital, 2829 E. Highway 76, Mullins SC, on June 14, 2014 from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The support group offers education, resources and, most importantly, support for those individuals caring for a loved one with dementia. The support groups are facilitated by Natalia K. Feely, RN. Please RSVP to reserve your spot. If you need assistance with a sitter while you attend the meeting the Alzheimer's Association will pay the cost. For more information, please call (843) 423-1888.

Come out and learn, share and support one another.

Computer lab open for all

Need to use a computer to apply for a job or conduct research? The Swamp Fox Computer Lab has 13 computers for public use, free of charge and is in the Swamp Fox Higher Ed Center in the C. D. Joyner Fine Arts building on Elizabeth Street. Hours are 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and after lunch 2:00-5:45 p.m. For more information, call Robbie Johnson at 423-6447.

2013 FoxTrot Festival

Thousands enjoy Marion's Annual FoxTrot Festival. The City come alive as everyone enjoying the food, rides, parade, petting zoo, exhibits, the mechanical bull and the antique car show. And who could forget about the show stopper performance by Carl Brunson. For information about the festival, call Sharon Grice at 423-8285.



Tabernacle of God Ministries

Pastor Larry Williams once again distributed free food to the community at Grice's Recreation Center from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 9, 2014. The Food Bank is sponsored by the Tabernacle of God Ministries Mobile Food Bank.



Vote June 10

There are three candidates in the bid to fill the office of Marion County Auditor. They are Cissy Drew, David Edwards and Cliff Wilbanks. The seat is presently held by Nancy Best who plans to retire after 42 years of service. Up for re-election in District 5 is County Councilman Col. Lt. Milton Troy and his opponent is Will Causey. The election is scheduled to be held on Tuesday June 10th. For more information contact the Marion County Voter's Registration and Election Commission at 843-423-8286.

Don't forget to go to the poll and cast your Vote!!!

Yoga classes set

Yoga classes are offered each Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the fire department sub-station on Senator Gasque Road. Taught by Judy Johnson and Frances Bethea, the classes are \$5 each or \$30 per month. For information or details, call the Recreation Department at 423-5410.

Fall Sports

The City of Marion Recreation Department will start accepting youth sign-ups for Football, Soccer and Cheerleading beginning July 7th – August 1st. You can register at the Watsonia Recreation Department Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For more details call 423-5410.

CITY NEWS

Marion to Host District 1 Tournament

Beginning June 28th Marion Recreation will be hosting the District 1 Tournament for the 12-U Ponytails and the 15-U Bells. The admission for the 1st night will be \$6.00 for the adults and each addition night will be \$5.00 the \$1.00 will be going to the scholarship fund for Dixie Youth Softball Team. Ages 12 and under 1st night \$4.00 and each addition night \$3.00, ages 6 and under is FREE.

Ping Pong Club

Don't forget that Marion Recreation holds a Ping Pong Club every Monday & Wednesday from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. You can come by on one of these days and freshen up on your ping pong skills, watch some games or learn how to play. For details, call 423-5410.

Senior Aerobics at Watsonia Center

Senior Aerobics has resumed and there are still some spots for newcomers. Classes are on Monday and Thursday, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The instructor is Mrs. Anna Boatwright. All classes are FREE, but donations are appreciated to help defer cost of the class. If you haven't participated before, please come out and register at the Marion Recreation Department.

Senior Bingo

We offer Senior Bingo the on first & third Thursday of each month. Bingo is FREE of charge and we welcome newcomers to come join in on the fun. We offer prizes for the winners and refreshments for you to enjoy while playing. We do have a 2 card playing limit. Come check us out and bring some friends to join in.

CDJ Aerobics

Aerobics classes are offered Monday thru Friday evening, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at CD Joyner. Taught by Ms. Lillie Ann Sanders, the classes are \$30 per month. For information or details, call Recreation Department at 423-5410.

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month



Jerry and Janine Jordan of 801 Wilcox Avenue have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for May 2014. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. The Jordan's will receive a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

Adopt a Shelter Cat Month

June 1- June 30th

Come celebrate "Adopt a Shelter Cat Month" - Paws to the Rescue/Marion County Animal Shelter adoption fees will be 50% off the regular fee.

All cats will be micro chipped; The first 20 adopters will receive a free "carrier" to bring home their new family member; All will go home with a coupon for a free initial "physical" exam. There will be the choice of two local veterinarians.



Employee of the Month



Calhoun is City of Marion's Employee of the Month.

The City of Marion selected Shop Mechanic Kelly Calhoun as its April 2014 Employee of the Month. Kelly is a fairly new addition to the City staff, having started at the Shop in January 2013. He was previously employed with the Marion Fire Department from 1985 – 1996. His work ethic and the quality of his work quickly earned him the respect of his fellow employees and the City's senior staff. Kelly works efficiently, and is always looking for ways to save the City money on parts and repairs.

The Mayor and Council recognized Kelly Calhoun for his positive impact and significant contributions to the City of Marion at the May 13th Council Meeting.



Community Farmers Market located at 109 Bobby Gerald Parkway (The Old Thomas & Howard Building). Open every Saturday 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. We welcome anyone interested in setting up a booth for hand-crafted items or locally

grown produce to contact Nicole Brown at 843-610-6246 or Johnathan McAllister at 864-341-5951.